

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 02909 221425Z

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ACTION DLOS-04

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9854

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 2909

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, EFIS, PFOR, EC

SUBJECT: GOE REACTION TO LEGISLATION ON 200-MILE FISHERIES
JURISDICTION

1. AMBASSADOR TEODORO BUSTAMANTE, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S PRINCIPAL OFFICER ON LOS, DISCUSSED GOE REACTION TO US EXTENSION OF EXCLUSIVE FISHERIES JURISDICTION TO 200-MILES WITH POLCOUNS ON APRIL 20. BUSTAMANTE SAID THE LEGISLATION WAS EXTREMELY "IMBALANCED" FROM ECUADOR'S POINT OF VIEW. THE GOE WELCOMES EXTENSION OF FISHERIES JURISDICTION TO 200-MILES AND REGARDS IT AS A FURTHER MOVE TOWARDS ECUADOR'S LONG-HELD TERRITORIAL SEA CONCEPT AS WELL AS AFFIRMATION OF A COASTAL STATE'S RIGHTS TO DETERMINE ITS JURISDICTION OVER ADJACENT WATERS OUT TO A LIMIT OF 200-MILES.

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, BUSTAMANTE CITED THOSE PORTIONS OF THE LAW EXCLUDING HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES FROM COASTAL STATE JURISDICTION, AND PROVISIONS OF THE ACT ON US DISTANT WATER FISHERIES, ESPECIALLY TUNA. HE SAID THE US WANTED TO HAVE IT BOTH WAYS: KEEP ITS OWN COASTAL WATERS FOR ITS FISHERMEN AND CONTINUE TO FISH AS IT WISHES IN THE COASTAL WATERS OF OTHER STATES. HE TERMED THE ACT'S PROVISION TO EMBARGO IMPORTS OF FISH PRODUCTS FROM NATIONS THAT DO NOT NEGOTIATE IN THE WAY THE US DESIRES OR THAT DENY US FISHERMEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO FISH FOR HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES AS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE. HE SAID THE GOE REGARDED IT AS ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE INCREASING

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PAGE 02 QUITO 02909 221425Z

TENDENCY LATELY OF THE US TO TRY TO COERCE SMALLER AND

LESS POWERFUL COUNTRIES.

3. AMBASSADOR BUSTAMANTE SAID THE GOE WOULD MAKE A FORMAL PROTEST TO THE USG REGARDING THOSE PORTIONS OF THE LAW WHICH THE GOE FINDS OBJECTIONABLE, AND WOULD POSSIBLY DO SO IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. HE SAID THE GOE WOULD REGISTER ITS COMPLAINTS TO THE USG CONFIDENTIALLY SO AS NOT TO DAMAGE US/ECUADOREAN RELATIONS, WHICH ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO HIS GOVERNMENT.

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